



Orchidaceae

Newsletter of the
Triangle Orchid
Society
Associated with Sarah
P. Duke Gardens

Speaker for October 10, 2005

Francisco Miranda

Since he was very young, Francisco had a lot of curiosity with nature, and so went through an unbelievable variety of different interests before finally getting into orchids. He became interested in orchids while diving near rock slopes, and noticing those very interesting and showy-flowered plants rooted directly on the rocks quite close to water level. He climbed onto the rocks to observe the different colors and shapes and of course collect a few to try to grow at home. At this time he didn't know they were *Cattleya guttata* and *C. intermedia* but figured this out pretty fast as the collector and classifier mind started to work on the subject.

Francisco thinks he was always destined to be a Taxonomist. From that point on, Francisco has been infected with orchid virus and as every orchid person knows, there is rarely a cure or way back. His interest in different groups of orchids shifted quite a bit back and forth but has settled on the *Cattleya* alliance. That was about 20 years ago, and during the year of 1989 he was lucky to have contact with Guido Pabst, by then Brazil's leading Orchid Specialist, who gave him incentive to go into a career in Botany. His interest in taxonomy was just starting. In 1981, he spent his first time in the Amazon. During this 9 month period he stayed mostly around Manaus (Amazonas State) and started to have an idea of the different types of habitats and orchids around. Back to Rio de Janeiro in 1982, the year he really started to get serious into Taxonomy and his main interest went to the so-called "rupicolous" laelias. He first learned Plant Taxonomy by J. Pedro Carauta, who specializes in fig (*Moraceae*) family not orchids. This was actually very good so he could learn the principles of Taxonomy without starting to apply his still rough knowledge (beginner's concepts) to orchids. That year he started numerous field trips to find and photograph as many species growing in the wild as possible. In 1983, a job opportunity sent him back to the Amazon, to research for one year in an area that would be flooded by the construction of the Tucuruí Dam. That was a unique opportunity, impossible to pass, so he decided to resume the studies on the rupicolous laelias later. After the end of this very positive year, he started his Master's Degree in Orchid Taxonomy in Manaus. By then he was really interested in the *Catasetum* alliance as this is the most widespread and varied orchid group in the Amazon. In 1985 he decided to go back to Rio de Janeiro because laelias were his real interest. The time in the Amazon really crystallized his interest in Taxonomy, and since then he's been working in the description of several new species, mostly still Amazon material gathered then. Back to Rio de Janeiro he decided to continue with the Master's Degree but started an Orchid Business with the main first goal to propagate Amazon species. He found out soon that it was difficult enough to keep the plants alive in such a different environment so ended up propagating mostly *Cattleya* Alliance species. Since then, he and his wife, who is from Rio, run an orchid business in Rio de Janeiro. Starting in 1988 he's been coming to the U.S. quite frequently, to the point that they opened a Business in Florida. Since Francisco finished his Master's Degree a lot of people (especially his Botanist colleagues) have asked him why he doesn't get a Doctorate? They are usually convinced when he tells them that his boss will never ask him to, and he won't get any raise going through all this work. Since living in Manaus, he has been practicing photography a lot and that's basically why he puts so many slides on his lectures. People seem to enjoy the habitat pictures and for me it is a good chance to go back to places that in some cases do not exist anymore. Fortunately he is also very good with computers and hopes this will prevent him from turning into an old science dinosaur in the future.

Francisco may be reached at: 4763 Polk City Road, Haines City, FL 33844, Tel./Fax: 863-422-9398 Email: fmiranda@att.net, Web Site: <http://www.mirandaorchids.com/>

Inside this issue:

<i>This Month's Speaker</i>	1
<i>Minutes of the Last Meeting,</i>	2
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	3
<i>Speaker Presentation</i>	
<i>Jack Webster Show table Awards</i>	4.5
<i>Speaker Presentation</i>	6
<i>Growing Tips</i>	8
<i>Programs & meeting schedule</i>	9
<i>Map and Directions to Sarah P Duke Gardens</i>	10

**The Triangle
Orchid Society meets
at the Sarah P. Duke
Gardens, Durham,
NC
The Second
Monday of the
Month
at 7:30 PM**

**www.Triangle
OrchidSociety.org**

TOS Officers and Board Members

President

Terry Moorhead
(919)-688-9235
transichun@aol.co

Vice President

Michael Cory
(919)-929-9917 April -March 2006
mcory@nc.rr.com

Secretary

Judith Goldstein
(919) 732-7622
Orangegr@earthlink.net

Treasurer

Michael Wagner
919-692-3965
mjwagner@bellsouth.net

Board of Trustees: 2005

Past President

Nicholas Plummer
nickplummer@nc.rr.com
(919) 969-9741

Board of Trustees: 2005

Amy Marshall
(919) 461-1251
amy_marshall@urcorp.com

Thom Reincke

(919) 363-8798
reinckefamily@msn.com

At Large Trustees 2006

Michael Joehrendt
919-) 8473598
Joehrendt@bellsouth.net

Jack Webster

(910) 692-3965
JWebster@pinehurst.net

At Large Trustees 2007

Paul Virtue
(919) 846-1245
pvirtue@prodigy.net

Peggy Bloodworth
(919) 732-1639
grapib@mindspring.com

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The September meeting of the Triangle Orchid Society was held on September 12th at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens in Durham, NC. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by President Terry Moorhead. The minutes of the August meeting were accepted as printed in the newsletter. Several announcements were made: The Fall fundraising auction will be held Saturday October 1st, people are needed to take care of the refreshments at the October and November meetings, and the December meeting will start an hour earlier to allow for the traditional holiday potluck dinner.

Jack Webster gave a mini-program on orchid repotting basics, and had a several page hand-out summarizing the talk available for all to take home. Nick Plummer presented the show table plants.

After the refreshment break, the evening's speaker Sue Fordyce of Fordyce Orchids in Livermore, California gave her program, which turned out to be both entertaining and informative. Sue started out with some "orchid poetry", then turned to a slide show first on cattleya culture then pictures of flowers from the Fordyce breeding program, which has been carried on for decades by Sue's father, Frank Fordyce.

The Jack Webster award plants were then selected and voted upon. In the Non-Greenhouse Grown category, first place went to an Angraecum longiscott grown by Jamie Graff, second to a Vanda

Second Place: Vanda Pontip x Asceda Motes Mandarin grown by Josh Gurlitz, and third to Third Place: *Oncidium Lanceanum* grown by Larry Sanders. In the Greenhouse Grown category, First Place: Dendrobium Jacquelyn Thomas grown by Michael Wagner, Second Place: Phalaenopsis Little Picotee grown by Olivine Virtue, Third Place went to *Dendrobium Madin Charlotte 'Elizabeth'* HCC/AOS grown by Paul Feather.

Again at this month's meeting there was an extensive raffle of dozens of plants donated by John Stanton of the Orchid Trail in Morrisville, who was cleaning up his benches for the winter. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm. Minutes submitted by Judith Goldstein, Secretary.

SPEAKER PRESENTATION: Our speaker was Sue Fordyce whose topic was *Your Orchids are Talking to You*. She has been growing orchids about 21 years and grew up with orchids because her father has been a grower for over 60 years and is a major Cattleya hybridizer known all over the world. Sue began by saying this is her third visit to the south. She said she would talk about different types of culture and how to observe your plants and see what they were trying to tell you. She described the location of Fordyce Orchids in Livermore, CA, about one hour east of San Francisco. They primarily grow cattleyas and the climate is hot and dry. There are three orchid nurseries on the property, theirs, and two others featuring Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilums. Their property is being sold to developers who will build houses on it. Their retail business will not continue. Her father will continue his hybridization activities. She has enjoyed learning from her father all these years. She began as a psychiatric nurse, which prepared her well for the orchid people.

She mentioned the joy of purchasing seedlings from hybrids rather than clones because then you have the opportunity to have something that no one else has. It could be something you dearly love, an award winner, or a so-so plant.

She began by reading a humorous poem titled, *Obsession*. The poem was prepared for a lighter orchid society event. She said her father told her if you aren't having fun with your hobby, then change your hobby.

She continued with a slide presentation showing orchids in distress. First was a graveyard behind her house where she buries her mistakes. Next was a leafless plant where she said it was taking up precious bench space and the owner had to learn to part with it. She showed a phalaenopsis rising out of its pot in rebellion. All the potting medium was muddy and mushy. They hate muddy and mushy and want chunky and airy. If it has been potted for a long time, it makes air roots out of the pot. To correct, take it out of the pot, cut off the dead roots and start it again using the new roots growing up there. This one is a cattleya with the most common problem for that type orchid. It has been over watered and the bulbs are wrinkled. The roots have rotted because you have been way too nice to it. It can't get water up to the bulb and up to the leaves so it takes water out of the bulbs to stay alive. It needs to be repotted sooner than later and should have been repotted a while ago. Wrinkling tells you the roots have started to rot. Roots rot from the back of the plant forward. This leathery leaf indicated the plant should be repotted.

The next slide was not autumn in Livermore [yellow-leaved]. It had a root rot problem as well. The oldest part gets root rot first. It needs to come out

of that pot. What she would do is cut off the back part of the plant, leaving at least three bulbs. She showed a slide to illustrate. If it's hard it is still good, if roots are mushy take them off because they act to blot up water around them, keeping everything around them wet so they rot. Look for a little live eye [slide illustration] on the plant. There are usually two eyes at the base of the bulb. One is growing and the other stays dormant as a back up. They have potential to make new growth for the plant. This new part will make roots for you. Decide how valuable your plant is and if it has value or sentiment for you, try and save it. The way to do this is to put it in a plastic bag, put a little damp sphagnum moss in the bag, not wet as that promotes rot. Leave the top open. This creates a humid environment for the plant. You might spray it with Physan too. You want to get the new growth coming out and the new growth looking for water. Then put it somewhere shady, like under your bench, and forget about it for a while, say 3 months. Then it may have new growth coming up. Leave it in there a little longer until the roots get about 2-3 inches long and pot it up. Be careful, as the roots are brittle. She said one of the most educational nights of the year at her orchid society is "Bad Plant Night." People bring plants they have a concern about and problems are diagnosed and discussed. Your name doesn't have to be on it. Half the plants are over potted. When you pot, pot according to the root ball, not to how big the plant is.

(Continued on page 6)

SPEAKER PRESENTATION: (continued from page 3)

If you put a plant in a really big pot, roots will take up water but can't take it all and the bigger the pot the wetter it stays. Pot it in something small. Small is always better. When in doubt, pot in the same size pot or smaller. Don't go bigger. If you have a big plant with tons and tons of roots you can go bigger because those roots can take up the water in that pot. The other thing is when the plant grows in nature, half the job is to take up water, and the other half is to hold on to that tree. If you have plants that are wobbly in the pot, it is an indication the roots aren't real good on it. When you water it and it starts to lean, it can't get a good purchase in the pot. I drill a hole in one side and use a bamboo stake to stick through it to hold it in place. She secures it with a second hole on the other side.

Under watering may happen. Cattleyas can go a long time without watering. She may water plants every three

**Non Greenhouse Grown
Jack Webster Awards**

**First Place: *Angraecum Longiscott*
grown by Jaimie Graff**



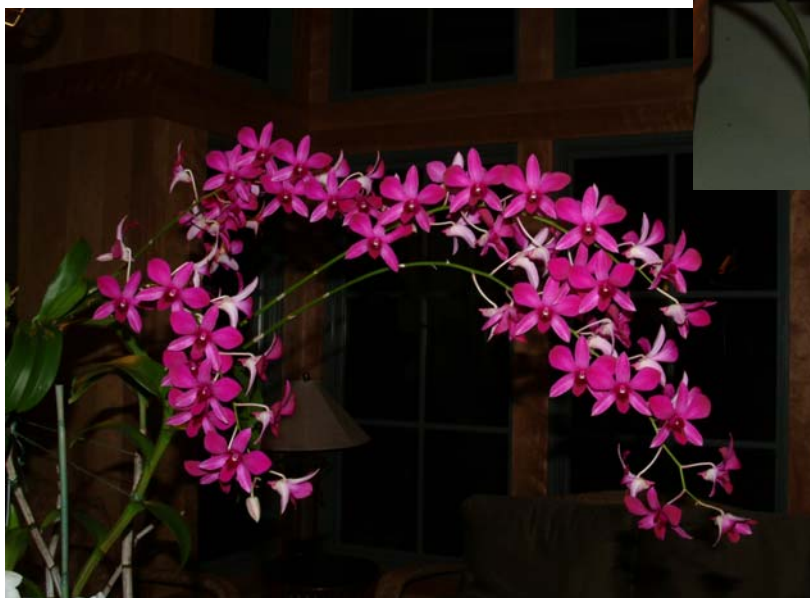
**Third Place: *Oncidium Lanceanum* grown by
Larry Sanders**



**Second Place: *Vanda Pontip x Ascda Motes*
Mandarin grown by Josh Gurlitz**

**Greenhouse Grown
Jack Webster Awards**

**Second Place: Phalaenopsis
Little Picotee grown by
Olivene Virtue**



**First Place: Dendrobium Jacquelyn
Thomas grown by Michael Wagner**

**Dendrobium
Madin Charlotte
'Elizabeth'
HCC/AOS grown
by Paul Feaver**





weeks in winter. She showed one that was very dry from its environment. It also shrivels up. She showed an *Oncidium* that has accordion folds, another sign of under watering. This is also true of *Miltonias*. She showed the use of double potting is a blooming plant. One nemesis is to be regular about watering, say, once a week. The best thing to do is to water by hand [she has 22,000 plants]. She keeps 2 inch, 3 inch, and 4-inch pots together and waters accordingly. She determines when to water by picking up and gauging when they are dry. Some people tag pots with something like a yellow or blue tag to queue you when to water. *Cattleyas* like to get dry.

One other thing about *cattleyas* is to look at the leaf. The harder the leaf, the more water it stores and therefore you water it less. Some of those that don't store as much water need to be watered more often. Even within the *cattleya* family, water needs vary, so listen to the plants, and look as well. Environmental set-ups may vary so do what works for you, taking that into account. She showed a slide where the roots are too long for repotting. She said, catch it when the roots are very short as that is a better time to repot. She showed one where bud sheaths were dark green and fine and another where the bud sheaths were yellowish. It may flood inside the envelope. What they do is open up the bud sheath by cutting it about an inch or two and letting some air inside that bud sheath. Sometimes bud sheaths can be hard and crinkly and that may keep buds from developing normally.

The flowers may come out deformed. Sometimes a light issue prevents proper development. They need energy from the light source to make the flower. You may see a double bud sheath. If you see this (due to a genetic thing, nothing you did) she tears that one open to let the bud develop normally.

She showed one with a very cupped tough leaf. It tells you it needs a lot of water. It needs a lot of light. One question was about spent flowers and whether she cleaned them up. She said, yes, clean it up. She cuts bud

sheaths vertically, usually cutting with a razor blade. She showed examples of good and bad *cattleya* leaf color. Darker color is not good. If it is getting enough light, the leaves will be a lighter yellow-green. She uses 4 parts bark: 1 part lava rock: 1 part perlite for culture medium. When she gets a plant from other sources, she repots them into her mix so she knows how to grow and water them. Find your niche for what works for you.

She showed salts building up on plants and medium. This will retard plant's growth. She showed one way to make a bulb pan which are wonderful for *cattleyas*. Next was an example of back-cutting *cattleyas*. Cut all the way through a rhizome (some only cut halfway through) and a new eye will come up on new growth. The second dormant eye begins to grow and you get a new bulb that eventually will bloom for you. Repot, dividing the plant, or leave together as a specimen plant. Two cautions: only do this on a very healthy plant because you can kill your plant if you do this too much to it, and don't do this on a plant taken for AOS judging as they frown upon this.

Next were examples of sunburn. When burnt all the way through, there is not much future for the plant. Trim the leaf back. When a leaf has sunburn spots, leave it because the rest of the leaf will add viability to the plant. Next was fertilizer burn. Less is always better when it comes to fertilizer. A plant suffering from poor water quality was shown. Use rainwater or reverse osmosis water.

Pests. Small white spots with halos indicate scale. A brown dot in the center means the scale is dead. If there are yellowish bruises on top of a leaf it may indicate scale on the bottom of the leaf. She treats with Orthene or Malathion. You might use 70% alcohol and if so, use religiously and often for 3-4 weeks at 5-7 days intervals. Change products often as resistance arises. Spray under leaves and where the rhizome and roots are because the insect hides. She combines Orthene with Sun Spray Oil. When preparing planting media, she soaks bark overnight with Physan and KLN (rooting hormone). For the first two months she waters in KLN. It works better than B1. She uses a vat of Physan to immerse plants when repotting. Orchid flower freckles were shown. Once there, they don't go away. Upping the heat and in-

creasing air movement prevent the freckles on blooms. She uses Nutricote every 6 months and likes it.

She showed slides of some of their exemplary plants and hybrids. Some award qualities are large flowers (about 4 1/2 inches in diameter), smaller plants, fragrance, intense color, and large petals that overlap. These are qualities they look for in their hybrids. One shown was 'Circle of Life,' It has garnered a lot of awards and has been used as the parent for many others. "Role Model" was cloned. Several others were shown including "Sue Fordyce," 'Demi Diva,' 'Circle Spirit,' 'Buttercup Bozo,' and some splash petal varieties. The *Laelia anceps* crosses are cold tolerant and can be grown outside in Livermore. You never know what you get when you hybridize so her dad continues to make a lot of hybrids. She ended with some fun examples constructed by combining orchids with objects.

Transcription by Cara Hayes, Secretary, Sandhills Orchid Society..

John Stanton (The Orchid Trail Greenhouses) will bring 25-30 orchids from his greenhouses for the raffle at this meeting, as he did at the last meeting. He needs to free up more bench space in his greenhouses.

Raffle Tickets will be \$1 each or a Free Raffle Tickets if you Bring a Show Table plant. (up to 5 plants)

Have Dinner with the speaker.

5:30 PM, before the meeting, at the Neo China Restaurant 4015 University Drive, Durham, behind Target's at the South Square Mall. Call Alan Miller 969-1612 before 5 PM Monday to make your reservations.

TRADERS CORNER

Is a Trial publication and will continue if members respond. TOS members can have your "wants" or "want to trade" items listed with thumbnail picture if you have one, please keep line copy to about 50 words. Members can email copy to alanjmiller@att.net. We will list only 3-4 items as space permits. Call or email the members directly to arrange your trade. Listings will be run for the next monthly newsletter and will be included

Wanted: Grobya amherstiae, Dichaea pendula, Cym. atropurpureum, Thrixspermum formosanum, Vanda lindenii, Den. gibsonii (fuscum), will buy seedlings or divisions or will trade for species in my collection. Contact Jeff Bloodworth at 919-732-1639. grapjb@mindspring.com.

Will trade a division of Epi. Lime Plum for any coerulea species or coerulea hybrid. Contact Alan Miller at 919-969-1612 alanjmiller@att.net



Will trade a division of Phrag Sendenii 'Blush' for any other Phrag, species or hybrid. Contact Alan Miller at 919-969-1612 alanjmiller@att.net





Growing Tips for October

By Courtney T. Hackney EMAIL at Hackneau@bellsouth.net

Fall is finally here. This is just about the busiest month for those of us that choose to grow tropical orchids where they are not supposed to grow. Instead of worrying about too much heat it is time to prepare for too much cold. Given the high cost of fuel this year makes it even more important to get preparations started.

Inspect your growing area to be sure your glazing is intact; no new cracks, spaces, etc. All of the heating and cooling inherent in greenhouses causes some shifting over seasons and years. Strong winds can have the same effect. Insulation often separates from surfaces in places with high humidity and constant exposure to water. Some of these problems can be easily solved with a tube of good silicone caulking. A can of "Good Stuff", or one of the other expandable foams available, can also be useful in joints or spaces below the glazing where cold air creeps in. Most of these types of product work better if the application surface is dry.

Heaters should be inspected and checked. If you are experienced you can do this yourself, but most hobbyists are better advised to get your gas company to do the inspection and light the burners. They are more skilled at finding problems. Do not forget to check exhaust ducting and vents. They, too, can move during the summer and leak exhaust fumes into the growing space endangering people and orchids. Do this before the first really cold weather arrives to avoid the rush. Get your gas or oil tank filled and prepare for a shock when the bill comes. Even more reason to seal all of the cracks in the greenhouse.

Many indoor growers have placed their orchids outside under trees or other shaded areas. It is time to prepare to bring them inside. Carefully inspect plants for insects and other pests. A fine jet of water can clean leaves and bulbs exposing prob-

lem pests. Slugs, snails, roaches and many other undesirables love the insides of pots. They may quickly disperse around your home once pots are brought inside. Treat now with appropriate drenches or pesticides. Also, inspect for other orchid pests, such as scale insects. Treat before bringing plants inside for the winter where plants will be crowded allowing pests to spread from plant to plant. Greenhouse growers are wise to follow the same process because it is always easier treating a greenhouse when it can be easily vented.

This is also a good time to review what each type of orchid requires for best growth and flowering. Phalaenopsis require a week or two of cool temperatures to initiate spiking. Night temperatures 60-65 F for a week to 10 days are

Once either gloomy weather or night temperatures below 55 arrive, it is time to move both phalaenopsis and vandas inside. . Blue vandas and ascocendas have a good dose of V. coerulea in their background and are the exception

ideal. A few nights in the upper 50s will do no harm as long as the day temperatures warm into the 80s. Once either gloomy weather or night temperatures below 55 arrive, it is time to move both phalaenopsis and vandas inside. Cattleyas generally love cool nights and warm days and can be left outside until night temperatures fall below 50 F. Blue vandas and ascocendas have a good dose of V. coerulea in their background and are the exception to the admonition above. They appreciate cool nights and will produce better colored flowers if given cool nights for as

long as you can. Antelope- and phalaenopsis-type dendrobiums are generally treated like cattleyas, although different growers have different threshold levels.

Paphiopedalums are a real mixed bag with respect to temperature. For years several species and their hybrids, notably P. rothschildiana, were supposed to require cool nights. These do well for me growing alongside my phals and get only a week or so of cool nights each year. In general though, paphs can handle cooler nights all year long with no harm.

Some orchids tolerate and even need cooler temperatures. Zygopetalums will not spike unless they get some cool weather, typically in the low 50s or upper 40s. The most cold-tolerant group is cymbidiums. Some hobbyists claim they get the best blooms only when they leave their cymbidiums outside until they get a light frost. Bright light and cool nights will provide an abundance of blooms later in the winter for this group. It is important to move them into a place where their spikes can grow and not move them continually. Not only can buds or spikes break, but often buds will blast (drop) if growing conditions are changed too dramatically once buds emerge.

There are many other orchid groups and even orchids within these groups that have specific requirements that are different. Cattleya violacea and C. chocoensis do not like any cool weather. Many bulbophyllums and dendrochilums also come from climates where they seldom experience any cold weather. Species are generally more temperamental than hybrids, which makes them more of a challenge to grow.

First Place Green house Grown: Dendrobium Jacquelyn Thomas, grown by Michael Wagner pictured on page 5 is a primary hybrid of Dendrobium bigibbum, var phalaenopsis x Den. Gouldii. Both are warm growing species and require constant high temperatures. Den. bigibbum grows from Timor to Australia. Blooms in the Spring and Den. Gouldii grows in the Solomon Islands ,blooms mostly Autumn. They are evergreen and do not require a rest period. They produce majestic flowers with a great profusion if root bound.

Den. Jaquelyn Thomas 'Ruby' grown by Mr & Mrs Lorenzen received a FCC/AOS 90 94 points at a regional Judging in Antonio, TX in 1971. It had 324 crisp , sparkling-white flowers on 27 spikes, 5 new growths, and 8 old ones, flowers well spaced, plant is approximately 8 feet tall.

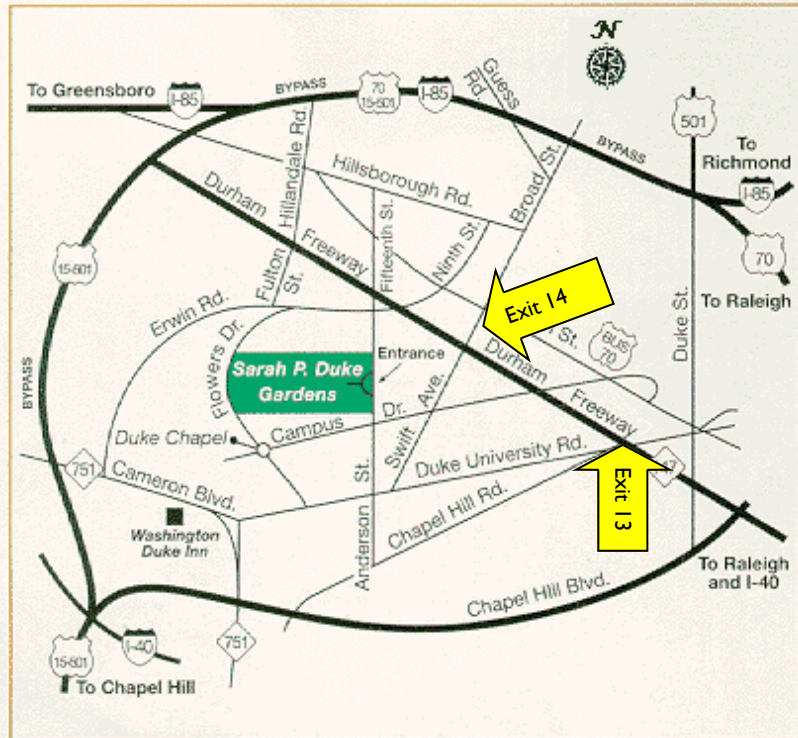


Triangle Orchid Society Meeting Agenda:	Calendar 2005	Speaker	Topic
7: 7:30 Set Up Show Table and Chairs	Oct 10th	Francisco Miranda	Brazilian Cattleyas
7:30-7:45 Business Meeting, Announcements		Boa Vista Orchids, Brazil	
7:45-8:10 Show Table Review	Nov 14th	Cathy Greger	Orchid Hunting in Jamacia
8:10-8:30 Refreshment Break		Minnesota	
8:30-9:20 Program			
9:20-9:30 Show Table Awards, Raffle and Door Prizes	Dec 12th	Walter Off	Phrag besseae & its hybrids
		Waldor Orchids NJ	
9:30 P.M. Meeting Ends			

Welcome Table

Refreshments

October	Thom Reincke	Judith Goldstein
----------------	---------------------	-------------------------



From the East. **Exit 13 on the Durham Freeway(#147)** South on Chapel Hill Rd. right on Anderson St. Gardens on left.

From the West. **Exit 14 on the Durham Freeway (147)** South on Swift Ave right on Campus Drive , right on Anderson St. Gardens on left.



Associated with Sarah P Duke Gardens

Alan J. Miller, Editor
5703 Orange Grove Rd.
Hillsborough, NC 27278
(Fax (253) 550-5038
Phone (919) 969-1612
Email:Orchidacea

The Triangle
Orchid Society meets at the
Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Durham, NC
The Second Monday of the Month
at 7:30 PM
Visitors are Welcome!

www.TriangleOrchidSociety.org

Francisco Miranda
Boa Vista Orchids, Brazil
Brazilian Cattleyas

Triangle Orchid Society Dues are:

\$18 per year single, or \$24 per year for two persons living at the same address.
 Mail to : Michael Wagner, Treasurer, 15 Wysteria Way, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-1637